

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 323

Declaring May 19 a national holiday and day of prayer and remembrance
honoring Malcolm X (Al Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 1994

Mr. RANGEL introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

Declaring May 19 a national holiday and day of prayer
and remembrance honoring Malcolm X (Al Hajj Malik
Al-Shabazz).

Whereas Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little on May 19,
1925, in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas his father, a Baptist Minister and adherent of the
Black nationalist teachings of Marcus Garvey, was per-
secuted by the Ku Klux Klan and, some believe, mur-
dered due to his outspokenness regarding those beliefs;

Whereas Malcolm X was a bright young student who left
school after the 8th grade, when his interest in eventually

studying the law was ridiculed and discouraged by teachers;

Whereas he spent a part of his formative years in foster homes after the illness of his mother;

Whereas while in prison after falling into a life of crime, he was introduced to the teachings of the Black Muslim religion and transformed his life to a study of history and philosophy;

Whereas he became the organization's preeminent spokesman and organizer, and went on to found Black Muslim mosques in Philadelphia, Boston, and New York;

Whereas he was a spokesman for a modern-day philosophy of Black Nationalism, earlier espoused by Marcus Garvey, encompassing economic and political independence, self-reliance, and self-defense;

Whereas he was an eloquent speaker, recognized around the world for articulating the concerns of the masses of Black America;

Whereas his growing popularity, controversial statements, and criticism of the Black Muslim leadership led to his suspension, and later, resignation from the organization;

Whereas he went on to found the Organization of Afro-American Unity;

Whereas the Organization of Afro-American Unity espoused a philosophy of unity with Black people around the world and argued the case for exploited people of all races;

Whereas following a pilgrimage to Mecca, he adopted the traditional Muslim religion and modified his views to a philosophy of universal brotherhood;

Whereas he came to believe that progress for Black Americans could be assisted by Black and White organizations around the world, particularly the United Nations;

Whereas he was a distinguished participant in the summit of African heads of State, held in Cairo in November 1964;

Whereas he was inspired by the belief, as he said, that “education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”;

Whereas from humble beginnings his dedication to education and struggle resulted in an extraordinary transformation into a figure of international renown;

Whereas Malcolm X, a highly controversial figure in his lifetime, has emerged as a symbol of strength, and is a hero to today’s Black youth and millions of people around the world;

Whereas his unrelenting stance on questions of justice, equality, and freedom appeals to their longing for relief from hopelessness born of economic deprivation;

Whereas he was assassinated in the Audubon Ballroom in New York City on February 21, 1965, at the age of 39:
Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That May 19 be commemorated as a day of prayer, re-
- 4 membrance, and reflection on the life of Malcolm X, and
- 5 be designated “Malcolm X Day”, a national holiday.

